UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Straws in the Wind - Part 34

From the Mercury News: *Stanford University, home to a $37.6 billion endowment, announced $140 million in cuts..., citing "significant budget consequences from federal policy changes." The move could result in layoffs and program reductions across several of its schools, the university said in an announcement. The cuts, which exclude the School of Medicine, are still being finalized. University leaders said schools and departments will have discretion in how to implement reductions, with guidance to prioritize research and education, preserve need-based financial aid and five-year Ph.D. student funding, simplify administrative processes, and "strengthen long-term financial resilience." Stanford, one of the premier research and higher education institutions on the West Coast, has the third-largest endowment in the U.S., trailing only Harvard's $50.7 billion and Yale's $40.7 billion. It is also Silicon Valley's largest landowner, with more than 8,000 acres across Santa Clara and San Mateo counties...*

Stanford officials said each department will handle the cuts differently, since general funds are flexible and used for a wide range of operations. "The most difficult part of these decisions is that they will require some reduction in staff positions, not all of which can be accomplished by eliminating open positions," university leaders said in the letter. The university confirmed that its staff hiring freeze, announced earlier this year, remains in effect, although faculty hiring will continue at a slower pace. "Moderate" salary increases to offset the rising costs of living will continue as planned...

About 5% of the endowment is spent annually... The endowment is largely invested in real estate, stocks and bonds. More than 75% of its payout is restricted by donors for specific purposes, such as supporting first-generation college students or particular academic fields... Alongside funding cuts, higher education is facing growing federal scrutiny over admissions and diversity. Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Justice launched an investigation into whether Stanford and three other California universities are complying with the U.S. Supreme Court's ban on race-based admissions...

Full story at https://www.mercurynews.com/2025/06/27/stanford-budget-cuts-layoffs-june-2025/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, Stanford

Postponed

UC-Berkeley chancellor Lyons, along with heads of CUNY and Georgetown was due to be a witness at a Congressional hearing today on "Antisemitism in Higher Education: Examining the Role of Faculty, Funding, and Ideology." However, for reasons unknown, the hearing has been postponed.

No future date is given.

See https://edworkforce.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=412535.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:15 AM No comments:

Labels: CUNY, diversity, Georgetown, politics, UC-Berkeley

Who Owns What?

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Faculty leaders comment on UCB Chancellor Lyon's appearance before House Committee on Education and the Workforce
- CUCFA Opposes AB 715
- Pause Trellix and Form a Working Group to Explore Cybersecurity Solutions
- Objection to AB 1217, AB 684, and AB 500 – Protecting UC's Institutional Autonomy
- Delay the UC cybersecurity mandate

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 34: Derailing the Columbia Precedent - 7/27/2025
- The onto-epistemic limits of current American academic debates, Or what the modern West can't think (Guest Post) - 7/25/2025
- Liner Note 33. Trouble at the Irvine Core (UC Irvine Part 2) - 7/12/2025

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

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- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Topics

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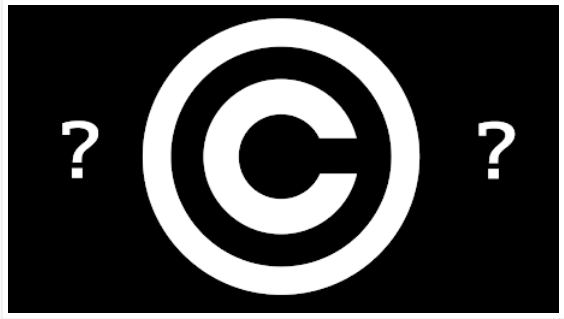


From the Chronicle of Higher Education: *Dinkar Jain was hired at the University of California at* [sic] *Los Angeles's Anderson School of Management in 2023 to teach "Management in the Age of AI" — a course he had developed to give current and aspiring management executives the insights on artificial intelligence they needed to lead their companies...*

Once approved and launched, the course proved popular, and the university asked Jain to teach it again. But when the university would not fulfill Jain's requests for things like a personal research assistant and the title of "senior fellow," he decided not to teach again. When Kramer referenced the need to find another faculty member to teach the AI course, Jain responded that the course was his intellectual property and "not something that I am just going to hand over to a new instructor" — a comment that neither Kramer nor Felix acknowledged in their reply. UCLA continued the course. They hired another instructor, Cy Khormaee, to teach it...

Jain asked [Khormaee] to send over a copy of the syllabus he was using, and Khormaee obliged...

To Jain's naked eye, the similarities were striking. Excluding the parts of the syllabus with boilerplate language about matters like plagiarism and absences, Jain ran Khormaee's document through plagiarism-detection software. When the software identified several similarities, it was "the first time that I discovered that this is problematic," Jain said. At the bottom of the page, Khormaee had added his own copyright mark...

Over the next few months, Jain shared his grievances with the Anderson dean, UCLA's interim chancellor, and the compliance officer and provost from the University of California system. He either received no response or was directed to another department...

But [a university] spokesperson did cite what appears to be the crux of the dispute: the University of California system's policy on ownership of course materials. It says that while the instructor may own the copyright to their course materials, the university has a fully paid-up, royalty-free, perpetual, and nonexclusive worldwide license to "use and update certain course-approval documents, such as a course description, a statement of learning objectives, and a topical outline, with the aim of maintaining course continuity." ...

Full story at https://www.chronicle.com/article/he-wrote-a-course-syllabus-is-it-still-his.

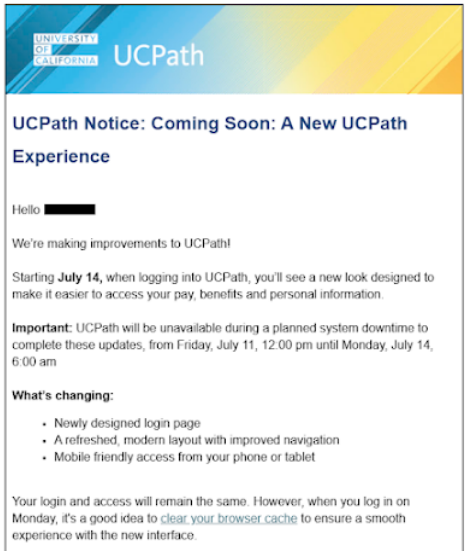
The matter is yet to be resolved.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: copyright, plagiarism, UCLA

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Does this make you nervous?


UCPath

UCPath Notice: Coming Soon: A New UCPath Experience

Hello [redacted]

We're making improvements to UCPath!

Starting **July 14,** when logging into UCPath, you'll see a new look designed to make it easier to access your pay, benefits and personal information.

Important: UCPath will be unavailable during a planned system downtime to complete these updates, from Friday, July 11, 12:00 pm until Monday, July 14, 6:00 am

What's changing:

- Newly designed login page
- A refreshed, modern layout with improved navigation
- Mobile friendly access from your phone or tablet

Your login and access will remain the same. However, when you log in on Monday, it's a good idea to clear your browser cache to ensure a smooth experience with the new interface.

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Straws in the Wind - Part 58

UCAD

Double D-Day (Deadline Decision)

New UCLA Police Chief

Straws in the Wind - Part 57

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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

The fact that the quick preview appears blank doesn't give yours truly a good vibe.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:49 PM No comments:

Labels: UC

Straws in the Wind - Part 33

From the Yale Daily News: *Belonging at Yale — a five-year initiative aimed to increase diversity, bolster a sense of inclusion and ensure equity throughout the University — has concluded, administrators announced... A University-wide email sent from President Maurie McInnis, Vice Provost for Faculty Development Gary Désir and Secretary Kimberly Goff-Crews indicated that the initiative was always planned to end this year. Public access to the initiative's once-expansive website is now steeply limited. The site, which the News accessed... through web archives, previously included pages of compiled resources on diversity, equity and inclusion; antiracism; Yale's historic connection to slavery; prospective school-wide actions to increase diversity and a contact form soliciting ideas.*

The updated website now consists of one central homepage displaying three annual reports on the Belonging at Yale initiative, issued in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Multiple links included in those reports are now inaccessible. The reports appear to be restricted to users who can log in through Yale's central authentication service. The other pages that were previously accessible on the site are no longer visible on the homepage and are inaccessible through direct links...

Full story at https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2025/06/27/yale-concludes-dei-initiative-as-scheduled-scrubs-website/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, Yale

Health Negotiations - Part 2

In late May, we noted on this blog that UC Health and Blue Shield were in seemingly-stalled negotiations for the period beginning July 9.* We also noted that UC folks under the university's various health plans for actives and retirees are under Blue *Cross*, not *Shield*. And finally, we noted that deals in negotiations are often struck close to deadlines.

So, for those interested in a follow up, we can now report that as the July 9 deadline approached, the parties moved it to August 9. From the San Francisco Chronicle:

...Late last week, San Francisco City Attorney David Chiu and Supervisor Matt Dorsey waded into the matter, urging Blue Shield to finalize an agreement with UC Health so that the roughly 5,000 city employees and retirees who go to UCSF for medical care will not lose access to critical medical services. Last year, UC Health and Anthem Blue Cross, another major insurer in California, similarly had a dispute over contract terms that lasted months. The two sides eventually reached a new contract... Both UC Health and Blue Shield said Monday that they hope to reach a new agreement and avoid interruptions for their patients and members.

Full story at https://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/ucsf-blue-shield-extend-contract-deadline-20401688.php.

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/05/health-negotiations.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, politics, UC, UC-San Francisco

Monday, July 7, 2025

Will Columbia Make a Deal?

From the Wall St. Journal: ...*Recent versions of a potential agreement between the [Columbia] and the government haven't included a consent decree, according to two... [knowledgeable] people. A government task force had initially sought to put the university under a consent decree, which would have put a federal judge in charge of overseeing Columbia's compliance.*

More recent discussions, however, have involved the possibility of a monitor or outside observer who would have less power than a federal judge... Columbia previously agreed to an earlier set of demands from the Trump administration, including restricting masks, empowering campus police with new powers to arrest students, and appointing a senior vice provost with broad authority to oversee the department of Middle East, South Asian and African Studies. But those concessions only kicked off formal negotiations and didn't restore Columbia's federal funding...

Acting President Claire Shipman... said... it was essential for the school to restore its research partnership with the government. "Our red lines remain the same," she said. "We must maintain our autonomy and independent governance. We decide who teaches at our institution, what they teach and which students we admit." As word of the outlines of a possible deal circulated over the weekend, some members of Columbia's Jewish community expressed frustration that a consent decree might not be part of it...

Full story at https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/columbia-federal-funding-negotiations-deal-trump-consent-decree-88427d9a.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:18 AM No comments:

Labels: Columbia, diversity, politics

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